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The Parthenon, February 7, 2017

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THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017 | VOL. 120 NO. 34 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017

IMPORTANT FIGURES IN W.VA. BLACK HISTORY

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the father of black history.



Dr. Mildred Bateman, the first African American woman to be WVa's mental health commissioner.



Christopher H. Payne, W.Va.'s first African American legislator.



John Warren Davis, former president of the first all-black school in the nation to be accredited.



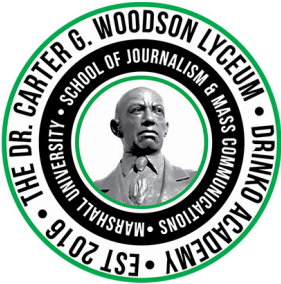
Ruth S. Norman, a broadcaster at WKAZ-FM in W.Va. for many years.



Leon P. Miller, first African American judge elected in W.Va.



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NEWS, 2

- > Legislative preview
- > Sen. Manchin and the broadband bill

SPORTS, 3

- > Baseball preview
- > Athletic event calendar

OPINION, 4

- > Editorial: The media can show diversity
- > XOXO, Michael Brown

LIFE, 6

- > MU Sigma Upsilon sister
- > The Book Nook

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS:

Feb. 7 | **Movie Night: "Hidden Figures"**

Description: "Hidden Figures" viewing. Based on a true story. A team of African-American women provide NASA with important mathematical data needed to launch the program's first successful space missions. 9 p.m. showing, Marquee Cinemas – Pullman Square

Feb. 9 | **Black in America**

Description: A discussion and panel with students and faculty. 6 p.m., Memorial Student Center's Shawkey Dining Room. Free and open to the public.

More information about each event can be found at marshall.edu/BlackHistoryMonth.

Feb. 17 | **Black Koffee: Black History Edition**

Description: Entertainment, poetry slam, judging, prizes, and refreshment foods/beverages. 6:30 p.m., Memorial Student Center, BE-5. Free and open to the public.

	7 Movie Night: "Hidden Figures"	8 Presentation by Charles Whitehead	9 Black in America	10 Freda Payne: A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald	11
13	14 "Loving"	15 "The Emancipation Proclamation as Sacred Text"	16 Black History BINGO	17 Black Koffee: Black History Edition	18
20 "Loving"	21 Reading by Crystal Wilkinson "Against All Odds"	22 "History from a Journalist's Perspective"	23 "An Albatross Around Your Neck"	24 Marshall University Annual Diversity Breakfast	25 Taste of African Fashion Show
27 "Confederate Monuments and Symbols"	28 A Night for Soul Rep Your Roots and Dashiki Day				

page designed and edited by NANCY PEYTON | peyton22@marshall.edu

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NANCY PEYTON | THE PARTHENON
West Virginia Senate President Mitch Carmichael addressing the press about future legislation.

Legislators to consider budget cuts, legalizing marijuana

By NANCY PEYTON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As with any other legislative session, this year has already brought forth questions about higher education, budget issues and the possibility of medical marijuana being legalized to help close the budget deficit left by the loss of most of the coal severance tax.

The Legislative Lookahead event on Feb. 3 featured panels to address these issues.

One of the biggest topics of the day, mentioned in almost every session, was the legalization of marijuana becoming an increased possibility. This follows the discussions from both the House and Senate during the special budget session last summer.

Del. Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, was at the center of this conversation in the previous session and was featured on the panel discussion about marijuana.

“It is already a multi-million dollar industry in West Virginia,” Pushkin said. “Currently we see absolutely zero revenue from it.”

John “Ed” Shemelya, national coordinator of National Marijuana Initiative, was also featured on this panel. He said that marijuana being legalized would only add to the issues currently being faced in the mountain state.

“This is a process that needs to go through the FDA,” Schemelya said. “We need to expand the research into cannabis. You’ve got serious problems in West Virginia. You don’t need to add another one to it.”

Eric Johnson of the Charleston Police Department said his concern comes from the fact that most states that have legalized medical marijuana see an increased push for the legalization of recreational use.

Danny Brag, a graduate student at Marshall and with the “Green is the New Black” initiative, said these states also give West Virginia the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others.

“We have the opportunity to look at other states to see what works and what doesn’t to build legislation,” Brag said.

However, Senate president Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, said the legalization of marijuana stands “zero chance” of making it through the legislature.

The marijuana question stems from a potential \$500 million-plus budget deficit that will have to be addressed in some way during the

upcoming session.

Brian Lego, an economic forecaster with the West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said the state will have to prepare for coal to have a “smaller footprint” than ever before.

Carmichael said coal will not be as prominent as it has been in this state’s past.

Del. Eric Nelson, R-Kanawha and House Finance Committee chairman, said this lack of economic diversification in the state is what had led to the current economic problems.

Different solutions for the problem legislators will face were discussed during the panel.

“We could look at tourism as a source to produce revenue in the state,” said Sen. Mike Hall, R-Putnam and Senate Finance Committee chairman. “The legislature is looking more in the area of the consumption taxes than the income taxes.”

Ted Boettner, executive director of the West Virginia Center of Budget and Policy, said these consumption taxes could also be used to address health problems in the state.

“A soda tax offers an opportunity to not only bring in revenue, but also address the obesity problem in the state,” Boettner said.

Boettner said the solution to the budget problem should not come through cuts to higher education funding.

“If we continue to keep cutting higher education it’s going to make it harder and harder for people to get a degree,” Boettner said. “Cutting higher education is crippling. We’re pushing more and more debt on our kids.”

Carmichael said he does not see cuts to scholarship funding being on the table.

“The PROMISE Scholarship will stay,” Carmichael said. “The goal was to keep the best and brightest students in West Virginia.”

Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert said the university is anticipating budget cuts. Gilbert said he has personally seen the discouragement of students concerning the condition of the economy in West Virginia.

“I asked a class of 30 freshmen where they see themselves in four years,” Gilbert said. “Only one said they could see themselves in West Virginia.”

The West Virginia legislative session begins Wednesday.

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Senator Manchin promotes broadband access throughout W.Va.

By KYLEE HURLEY
THE PARTHENON

United States Sen. Joe Manchin is working to bring broadband access to the entire state of West Virginia by introducing a bill that would work to accomplish this goal.

West Virginia Sen. Corey Palumbo discussed the importance of bringing broadband access to the state and the benefit it would be bring to West Virginia’s economy.

“I think that West Virginia seems like we are lagging behind in high speed broadband access for our population and I think it is of critical importance for people and businesses to have access to that,” Palumbo said.

Manchin released a press release Friday that said this bill would form a committee to work on ideas to apply broadband access across the state of West Virginia.

“The job of serving the Mountain State is far from done. All too often,

broadband policies have failed states like West Virginia because voices from rural America have not been at the table,” Manchin said in his press release.

All of the supporters of this bill, including Manchin and Sen. Roger Wicker, wrote a letter to the Federal Communications Commission concerning the issue.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito and Sen. Elizabeth Warren were a few of the other senators who signed the letter to the FCC urging support for the broadband issue.

The bill to the FCC says, “We support your efforts to close the digital divide for low-income and rural America.”

Manchin’s press release says the bill would support rural areas of West Virginia. The letter to the FCC says the broadband access would work to benefit not only the rural parts of West Virginia, but also all of rural America.

This bill would

specifically work to “provide mobile broadband service to rural and underserved areas,” according to Manchin’s press release.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito has also been working for better broadcast access in West Virginia and for the rural areas of the nation, as one of her main issues is broadband access, according to her website.

“A recent study by the Federal Communications Commission indicates that 56 percent of West Virginia residents do not have access to broadband services that ... as many as 74 percent of West Virginias do not have access in rural areas,” Capito’s website said.

Capito has also released a letter she initiated, with the support from fellow senators, to President Donald Trump to extend broadband access across the nation, especially in rural areas.

Kylee Hurley can be contacted at hurley40@marshall.edu

Marijuana Legislation is debated at Lookahead panel

By TOM JENKINS
NEWS EDITOR

Marijuana in the coming year could be the most controversial and talked about issue on the West Virginia Legislature’s already large list of issues. It has already been a very controversial topic with different states debating on whether or not they should pass either a medical or recreational law, and how they will do it.

Panelists addressed the West Virginia press Feb. 3 to discuss the possibility of marijuana becoming a regulated substance. At points, it became more of a debate on whether or not marijuana could actually benefit the state.

This debate addressed the possible financial benefits, how it will affect the drug epidemic and, most importantly, how it could affect the children of West Virginia.

The panel seemed to be equally split, with two clear supporters of legislation on marijuana and two against the idea, with one panelist stating it all depends on the person using the drug.

Delegate Mike Pushkin is a supporter of the idea of passing marijuana legislation and he cites that the financial benefits are something West Virginia is not utilizing.

“It is a multimillion dollar business in West Virginia,” Pushkin said. “And currently we see absolutely zero of the revenue from it.”

Pushkin last year introduced a bill that would decriminalize marijuana as a way of tackling the budget deficit the state faced last year. Pushkin said the legislature had two options — raise taxes or cut back on essential programs, which he says would hurt many people in the state.

In 2015, the Colorado Department of Revenue reported



TOM JENKINS | THE PARTHENON
Legislation of Marijuana panelist debate the pros and cons of the drug.

that after the initial legalization of marijuana, the tax on marijuana surpassed the alcohol taxes in the fiscal year. The state ended up making just short of \$70 million in marijuana taxes.

Ed Shemelya of the National Marijuana Initiative, was the main counter-argument for the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana. The majority of his argument was centered around the effect the drug would have on the youth of West Virginia.

Shemelya cited a statistic saying that West Virginia was forty-first in marijuana use for teens ages twelve to seventeen.

“Usage rates — I can guarantee that your usage rate with young people are going to go up,” Shemelya said. “That’s what is most concerning when states go down this route, the consequence is your usage rates go through the roof.”

Shemelya pointed out the fact that Colorado leads the nation in all three categories of age usage rates.

Danny Brag, a Marshall alumni, is with the organization “Green is the New Black.” His organization pushes for legislation for marijuana that can benefit the state of West Virginia.

His argument for the underage usage is that, if regulated, marijuana can be controlled just like alcohol sales are.

“I’d be willing to bet if I gave a 15 or 16-year-old kid \$50 and said go get me a bottle of Bacardi or go get me weed, I would say a majority of the time that high school student would find it easier to find marijuana than it be to go to Rite-Aid and buy a bottle of liquor,” Bragg said.

West Virginia Senate President Mitch Carmichael (R) also addressed the issue.

“I’ve sponsored legislation for medical marijuana. Not recreational, not decriminalization, not legalization, but medical marijuana,” Carmichael said. “And my reasoning for that is simply compassion when you’re confided with those who have received benefit. With cancer patients, that is the only mechanism for nourishment, or PTSD, it helps them with their appetite and it relieves some of the symptoms there and for patients.”

For now, there doesn’t seem to be any clear stance for West Virginia, but with a Republican-majority senate and no clear stance from new Gov. Jim Justice, it could be a long time before West Virginia sees actual legislation on marijuana.

Carmichael later added that, “There was zero chance of marijuana making it through the legislature.”

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MU raises awareness for transgender community

By CHRISTIAN DAVIS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Inter-cultural Office is sponsoring a Trans Clothing Drive Feb. 6 through Feb. 24 to collect new or gently used clothing for the transgender community.

The LGTBQ+ office is the host of the drive, as well as many different volunteers from the psychology of women capstone class.

In addition to clothing, all and any other donations are acceptable, such as chest binders, jewelry and transgender accessories.

Ashlee Vandruff, a psychology major at Marshall, volunteers her time in the LGTBQ+ office in the Memorial Student Center and is working with making this drive a success.

“While not everyone who identifies with a certain gender feels the need to match their presentation with societal norms, many who are exploring their gender identity want to dress according to what they think is appropriate at the time,” Vandruff said. “I think it is important for Marshall and our community to show all of our students we support them, and by allowing there to be a place where students can be comfortable to be true to themselves is a huge step in the right direction.”

Students can find bins located in the LGTBQ+ office, the women’s studies department and in the lobbies of dormitories.

Vandruff said the best ways

to help support the transgender community is by creating a safe environment where everyone feels accepted.

“Going out to buy clothing can at the best of times be exhausting, and at the worst can lead to harassment,” Vandruff said. “Great ways to help is to work towards having a safe space where people are accepted despite their sexuality, gender, race and etcetera.”

All donated clothes will go toward the LGTBQ+ office.

The LGTBQ+ office is always looking for more willing volunteers to help with events like these in the future and is open to all students.

Christian Davis can be contacted at davis823@marshall.edu

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SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

EVENT CALENDAR

08

Big Green Scholarship Foundation
Tip-Off Club Luncheon Opponent
12:00 PM Fat Patty's
Huntington, West Virginia.

10

Softball
Lipscomb Opponent
11:00 AM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Women's Tennis
VCU Opponent
2:00 PM
Richmond, Virginia.

Softball
Furman Opponent
6:30 PM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Women's Track
Chipotle Marshall Invitational
Opponent
All Day
Huntington, West Virginia.

11

Women's Basketball
WKU Opponent
1:00 PM
Huntington, West Virginia.

Softball
Florida State Opponent
1:30 PM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Softball
#1 vs. #4 Opponent
4:00 PM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Men's Basketball
WKU Opponent
6:00 PM
Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Softball
#2 vs. #3 Opponent
6:30 PM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Women's Track
Chipotle Marshall Invitational
Opponent
All Day
Huntington, West Virginia.

12

Softball
Consolation Game Opponent
10:00 AM
Tallahassee, Florida.

Softball
Championship Game Opponent
12:30 PM
Tallahassee, Florida

Women's Tennis
Virginia Tech Opponent
All Day
Blacksburg, Virginia.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Baseball team aiming for continued improvement in 2017



By Mike Morgan
FOR THE PARTHENON

Tommy Lane admires his hit . Lane was C-USA Newcomer of the year for 2016.

Marshall is coming off of the best baseball season in program history with 34 wins including 21 conference wins. The Herd finished in the top 5 of 17 different offensive categories including first in hits with 315, 189 RBIs, 36 home runs, 69 doubles, 504 total bases and 50 stolen bases. Marshall is returning 14 players from last year headed by Tommy Lane, C-USA Newcomer of the Year. Lane was a transfer from Mt. Hood Community College and had a breakout Junior Year. He was selected to all conference first team with a .296 batting average, team-high 48 RBIs, and a .402 on-base percentage.

“It’s good to feel wanted and I wanted to come and make an impact,” Lane said. His expectations and main focus on the year: winning that conference title. When asked if he has made improvements on his game, he

said yes and brought up a quote that his father used to tell him, ‘If you aren’t getting better, you’re getting worse.’ Lane mainly referred to his concerns for the team and wins rather than himself or stats.

Marshall was voted by 12 C-USA coaches to finish eighth this season. This comes as a shock after finishing second in 2016. Marshall was not even voted to have a single all conference player.

Waggoner seemed a little upset when asked about the ending to last season. The Herd finished a half game away from winning the conference. Waggoner said his expectations this year are “for the team to play as good as they can and to grow as the season goes on.” The 9th year coach did not buy much into being projected to finish eighth in the conference when the Herd was expected to finish dead last in 2016

AWAY		HOME	
13-10	W-L	19-9	
Opponent		Marshall	
.273	BA	.285	
285	Runs	331	
526	Hits	540	
33	Steals	89	

Marshall University 2016 Baseball Stats

and ended the season second. Waggoner explained that this year, although they lost five players due to draft, signing, or just graduating, that the team has gained new talent and

developed new leaders coming into 2017. He ended the interview in saying that Marshall looks to start off strong against Georgia State on the Feb. 17.

TENNIS

Herd Track and Field continues success at Akron Invite

HERDZONE

The Marshall University track and field team completed its final indoor regular season road meet Saturday at the Akron Invitational. The team compiled several finals appearances, several division victories, and numerous top-10 finishes.

The team registered two first-place finishes. Senior Andrea Porter won the blue division 3000 meter run with a time of 10:14.85. Junior Barkley Castro held off her competition to win the blue division one mile run with a time of 5:07.42.

The 4x400m relay team consisting of Christianna Dougan, Safiyyah Mitchell, Breanna Hargrove, and Danere’a White finished second in the gold division with a time of 3:47.74. The time just missed breaking the school record of 3:46.57 set in 2015, and the time is currently the new fourth best in Conference USA.

Seniors Hope Julmiste and Kametra Byrd each qualified for the gold division 60m finals. Julmiste finished fourth (7.64 seconds) and Byrd finished sixth (7.67 seconds).

Julmiste’s time puts her currently tied for eighth in C-USA.

Freshmen Hannah Carreon and Safiyyah Mitchell both qualified for the gold division 60m hurdles finals. Carreon finished sixth with a time of 8.77 sec., and Mitchell finished seventh with a time of 8.87 sec. Carreon’s time puts her at fifth currently in C-USA.

The distance medley relay team of Andrea Porter, Barkley Castro, Adriana Cook, and Madeline Armstrong finished fourth with a time of

12:18.48.

Freshman Danere’a White finished fifth in the 200m blue division race with a time of 25.60 seconds.

Senior Danielle Wright finished sixth in the triple jump gold division with a longest jump of 11.12 meters (36 feet, 5.75 inches).

In the gold division shot put, sophomore Elena Marchand finished eighth with a toss of 14.04m (46 feet, 0.75 inches). Freshman Ericka Budd finished eighth in the blue division shot put with a mark of 12.50m (41 feet).

In the 3000m blue division run, junior Samantha Grafius finished in eighth with a time of 11:12.69. Freshman Abigail Short finished just behind her with a time of 11:18.63 in ninth place.

Junior Madeline Armstrong finished 10th in the 800m blue division with a time of 2:21.32.

“I can’t think of an athlete for us who didn’t perform above expectations,” head coach Jeff Small said. “Hannah Carreon had a tremendous PR in the 60 meter hurdles. Barkley Castro just missed

See TRACK | pg.5

HERDZONE

SWIM AND DIVING

Herd Swim and Dive finishes the Marshall Invitational

HERDZONE

The Marshall swimming and diving team finished the final day of the MU Invite on Saturday afternoon at the Fredrick A. Fitch Natatorium.

“We are very pleased with our results this weekend,” head coach Bill Tramel said. “I think for those who were doing lifetime bests, it shows the hard work they have put in. In fact, it even extends to those that were not on their personal bests, but faster than they were at NC State Cup. Now we need a little more rest and

hopefully we can go a little faster at C-USA Championships in 17 days.”

The Thundering Herd earned three first place finishes in the non-scoring competition.

In the first meet of the day for the Herd, Emma Lockyer set a pool record in the 400 IM with a first place finish at 4:23.36. Her time ranks fourth in Conference USA this season. Madeline Schaffer touched in at second with a time of 4:25.14, while Shir Wasserman finished

third at 4:29.21.

Marshall continued to perform strong, as it claimed the top four spots in the 100 freestyle. Rachel DePietro finished in first at 52.50. Maggie Stovall placed in second at 52.71 and Lauren Cowher was third at 52.77. Rounding out the top four was Savannah Ruedt with a time of 53.07.

The second pool record was set in the 200 backstroke, as freshman Jordyn O’Dell finished in first at 2:00.22. Carin Ingram

touched in at 2:01.22 for second place. Madi Pulfer (2:02.60) finished third. Caroline Wanner (2:02.67) and Bree Mury (2:04.93) earned a fourth and fifth place finish, respectively.

Gloriya Mavrova (56.11) finished in second place in the 100 butterfly, while Siirena Rowe (56.57) earned a third place finish.

The Thundering Herd placed three in the top four in the 500 freestyle. Anna Lynch led the way with a second place finish at 4:53.83. Angelica di Marzio

finished third at 4:58.76 and Catherine Bendziewicz touched in at 4:58.86 for a fourth place finish.

For all the latest information about Marshall swimming and diving, follow @HerdSwimDive on Twitter and Marshall University Swimming & Diving on Facebook.

The Thundering Herd heads to Atlanta for the 2017 Conference USA Championship. The competition begins on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and runs through Saturday, Feb. 25.

#ICYMI

@HerdMSoccer

Marshall Men’s Soccer Welcomes Sahr Felix Sandy Woodbridge, VA DC United Academy

Kyle Winquist Medina, OH Cleveland Internationals Academy

Zak Elagamy Lafayette, LA CSC Alliance

By the Numbers

8 After the best season in school history, Marshall University was picked to finish 8th in Conference USA in the preseason coaches poll. Marshall University is returning 14 players, and finished second last season.

C-USA Standings

Men’s	
1 - MTSU	(10-1, 20-4)
2 - La. Tech	(8-3, 16-8)
T3 - ODU	(7-4, 14-9)
UAB	(7-4, 14-10)
5 - UTEP	(6-4, 8-14)
T6 - Marshall	(6-5, 13-11)
WKU	(6-5, 12-12)
T8 - Rice	(5-5, 15-8)
UTSA	(5-5, 10-13)

Women’s	
T1 - Charlotte	(9-2, 17-5)
WKU	(9-2, 17-6)
MTSU	(9-2, 14-8)
4 - UTSA	(7-3, 11-10)
5 - ODU	(7-4, 12-10)
T6 - So. Miss.	(6-5, 14-9)
La. Tech	(6-5, 11-11)
8 - North Texas	(4-6, 7-14)
T9 - Marshall	(4-7, 12-10)
UAB	(4-7, 11-11)

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EDITORIAL

Editors' Picks: Books, movies, TV to celebrate Black History Month



NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER | AP FILE PHOTO

This image showing workers at NASA's Langley Research Center is part of an exhibit called "When the Computer Wore a Skirt: NASA's Human Computers," at the Hampton History Museum in Hampton, Virginia. The woman on the far right is engineer Mary Jackson, who was portrayed by Janelle Monae in the movie "Hidden Figures." The movie tells the story of African-American women who worked at NASA in the early 1960s.

February is Black History Month, where we raise awareness of and celebrate African American contributions throughout history. Where sometimes textbooks are lacking, Black History Month seeks to fill those gaps and create a space to discuss the influential African American figures and achievements that changed the world we live in today. Black History Month is also a time to celebrate diversity — diversity in the makeup of the American people, in our cultures and in how our perspectives on the world all differ from each other. It is important to study and learn about the facts of African American history during

Black History Month. It is also important during the month to recognize the creative contributions that come from African Americans and stem from African American history. Creative works allow us to understand the diversity and history Black History Month celebrates and raises awareness of by delving straight into it and allowing us to see the world firsthand through perhaps a different lens than what we are used to. Where seeking out literature and films by and about African Americans should always be a necessity, Black History Month is a time to truly give ourselves an opportunity to celebrate with a sense of urgency and

togetherness the history and diversity that can be found in reading books, poems and stories, and watching films, documentaries and series about African American people and history. All these mediums allow readers or viewers to fully engage in a story and to take a walk in someone else's shoes. Whether the narrating perspectives are historical or modern, Black History Month allows us to recognize these contributions and celebrate them all. The Parthenon staff have listed some of the things they are reading and watching this February to celebrate and commemorate Black History Month.

 <p>"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou</p> <p>"Phenomenal Woman" a poem by Maya Angelou</p> <p>"Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates</p> <p>"Black Faces, White Spaces" by Carolyn Finney</p> <p>"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee</p> <p>"The Color of Water" by James McBride</p> <p>"The Coldest Winter Ever" by Sister Souljah</p> <p>"The Help" by Kathryn Stockett</p> <p>"The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead</p>	 <p>"Fruitvale Station" directed by Ryan Coogler</p> <p>"Selma" directed by Ava DuVernay</p> <p>"Barry" directed by Vikram Gandhi</p> <p>"Moonlight" directed by Barry Jenkins</p> <p>"The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" directed by John Korty</p> <p>"Hidden Figures" directed by Theodore Melfi</p> <p>"The Birth of a Nation (2016)" directed by Nate Parker</p> <p>"Dear White People" directed by Justin Simien</p> <p>"Fences" directed by Denzel Washington</p>	 <p>"Black-ish" ABC</p> <p>"The United Shades of America" CNN</p> <p>"Empire" FOX</p> <p>"Pitch" Fox</p> <p>"Atlanta" FX</p> <p>"Insecure" HBO</p> <p>"Luke Cage" Netflix</p> <p>"The Get Down" Netflix</p> <p>"Unsung" TV One</p>
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COLUMN

Now is the time to celebrate diversity

By JEROME GILBERT
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

The month of February is set aside each year as Black History Month. Many universities, including Marshall, use it as a time to celebrate diversity as well. A Huntington native, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, laid the groundwork for the celebration during his time in the early twentieth century by advocating for more accurate teaching of the history of the African American experience. One of Dr. Woodson's later works was a treatise on the mis-education of black Americans about their history. The history books of the day downplayed important contributions and perpetuated negative myths about African Americans. Dr. Woodson told us that we needed to reteach African Americans about their history and their value in society. My experience of growing up in the Deep South in the 1960's gave me the perspective of seeing firsthand many of the negative myths and prejudices against people simply because of the color of their skin. Many of my generation unlearned much of the negative aspects of the stereotypes that were perpetuated in white society of that day. It was by going to school and working with people from different backgrounds and races that I was able to see the common qualities and attributes and learn that many of society's myths were untrue. My ninth-grade English teacher, Mrs. Beatrice Moore, an African American, taught me about racial equality and respect just by her intelligence, kindness, and concern for me. My life was forever changed. As we begin our celebration of Black History



FILE PHOTO | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert.

month and embrace the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, my commitment is to affirm the value of diversity and to seek ways to increase the diversity of Marshall. My goal is to see the number of African Americans and other minorities at Marshall increase in a significant way. The exposure of our majority students to people who are not like them is part of our obligation in preparing them for life beyond college. As we increase Marshall's diversity, the probability goes up that other people like me will have the chance to be positively impacted by a person like Mrs. Beatrice Moore. And when they do, their lives will be so much the better. Thank you, Mrs. Moore.

COLUMN

xoxo, Michael Brown

By MICHAEL BROWN AND KABREA JAMES
ONLINE EDITOR AND ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

If you're not already aware, it is Black History Month. Black History Month is a time for people of color, as well as those who are not of color, to reflect on the accomplishments of black America. As Americans, we often overlook all the things that black people have done for this country. As a country, we have come so far yet we still have so far to go. Today, black men still seem to be the number one target of police brutality and arguments around the Black Lives Matter movement are at an all-time high. Today, we wanted to use our platform to tell you some things that are happening that are bothering us. Don't touch my hair. I'd rather not be "petted" like an animal just because you observed that my hair texture is different from yours. It's fine to admire my coils from a distance, but most of the time, your hands are an inch away from my scalp before you're two words into the question. The answer is no. You cannot touch my hair. My hair is naturally this beautiful and there's no need for any

outside interference.

Stop asking me if my dad is in my life. I used to have a boss back home who would always ask me if my dad was in my life when she found out that I was biracial and that I lived with my mother. It was the most annoying thing ever. Unfortunately, men of color have this stereotype of not being good fathers. This is not always the case in every situation. There are plenty of great black dads out there. Please stop assuming that mine isn't one of them. My dad has always been there for me. I couldn't have asked for a better parent. I have so much respect for the black man that I call my dad. PLEASE do not think it is okay for you to use the N word. Ever. Saying the N word doesn't make you sound cool, it makes you sound inconsiderate. How do you expect to connect with me by using a term that dehumanizes my people? I'm not sure what kind of impression you're trying to make on us, but it's a no for me. What attracts you to the term, better yet, what possess you to use it around black people? Regardless, we're not trying to hear it.

Do not underestimate me, I can do anything that you can. Anything you can do I can do better. Black women are the number one educated group in America. Yet, it's so often thought that people of color, especially those who have darker skin, aren't capable of accomplishing the same things as those who are white and that is not the case. Black is beautiful. My fellow people of color, always remember to out-work yourself. Your biggest competition is yourself. You can do anything you put your mind to. Don't let the negative opinions of others bring you down. In case you didn't know, being pro-black does not mean that I am anti-white. Dear white people, let us have our month. It's the shortest month of the year. When you hear "Black Lives Matter" it doesn't mean that white lives or Latino lives don't matter. The term "Black Lives Matter" just means that black lives matter too. Michael Brown can be contacted at brown790@marshall.edu. Kabrea James can be contacted at james147@marshall.edu.

THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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"Factual errors appearing in the Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

A look at a historical text through religious lens



THE PARTHENON

“The Emancipation Proclamation as Sacred Text,” a lecture by Joseph Tucker Edmunds, will be presented on Marshall’s campus Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Edmunds is an assistant professor of religious studies and Africana studies at Indiana University’s School of Liberal Arts and a research fellow for the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture.

He has been invited to campus in honor of Black History Month to discuss his research on religious communities.

“Usually when you dig deep into religious communities, you find that there is a great degree of extra biblical text,” Edmunds said. “Things that are not usually considered a part of the cannon, usually not considered part of mainstream discourse. What are those other texts that African American Christians use?”

He proposes and will discuss

in detail during his lecture that the Emancipation Proclamation is one of those extra biblical texts. This is because of its political significance which leads to it being read as sacred text. Edmunds said African American Christians see the Emancipation Proclamation as recognition for God’s desire to free African Americans from slavery.

Edmunds will be talking about understanding religion through a historical and political understanding, specifically African American Christianity.

“If you are a person who has questions about Christianity and African American Christianity, I’m coming in and I’m going to hopefully challenge what you thought about those categories and how they work and what counts as sacred in those spaces,” Edmunds said.

The “The Emancipation Proclamation as Sacred Text” will be held at 4 p.m. in the Drinko Library third floor atrium.

Exploring the controversy of Confederate monuments

By HANNAH SWARTZ
THE PARTHENON

David Trowbridge, associate professor and director of African and African American Studies at Marshall University, will give a presentation on the ongoing controversy surrounding Confederate monuments and symbols Feb. 27.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. in Drinko Library Atrium and is part of the series of Black History Month events sponsored by The Carter G. Woodson Lyceum.

“One of the issues that has been in the news recently involving African American history has been the debate about what to do with some of these confederate monuments,” Trowbridge said. “I thought it would be a topic of interest to people. I believe history allows us the ability to make arguments based on specific evidence, allows us to have constructive dialogue and we could be more creative than simply removing something or leaving it in place.”

One of the subjects Trowbridge will be talking about is the monuments built in the 1920s versus those built during the reconstruction period

during the 1860s-70s.

The monuments reflect the views of those who were in control in the decades when they were created, but the 1920s was when there was an explosion of monuments. A lot of it has to do with the politics of the early 1900s, and who was in charge at the time.

“The question of what to do with these now phases us, and it’s not just in the United States,” Trowbridge said.

“This monumental landscape is being constructed deliberately to place white supremacy on a pedestal,” Trowbridge said. “But that is never the only thing they are doing; they are also honoring veterans and some of them are there. So, these speeches are interesting and worth exploring because they have these two conflicting goals.”

Trowbridge is a veteran himself, serving in the Iraqi War, as well as a historian.

“I think we need to understand that ... there are many ways to preserve history besides a monument,” Trowbridge said.

Hannah Swartz can be contacted at swartz20@marshall.edu.

'Hidden Figures' showing

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students will be able to watch the story of three African American women who played a key role in NASA’s space race in the late 50s and early 60s as “human computers” by calculating mathematical data for space missions Tuesday.

The Student Activities Office, in conjunction with the Center for African American Students and Black United Students, is hosting a free showing of “Hidden Figures” Tuesday at 9 p.m. at Pullman Square Marquee Theaters.

The movie follows Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Katherine Johnson as they challenge gender, race and employment barriers at NASA during the space race with Russia.

Johnson was assigned as the first African American woman to the Space Task Group that was in charge of calculating flight and return patterns of astronauts. She was faced with skepticism from the white male workers who dismissed her presence and her work.

Vaughan, in efforts to save her co-worker’s jobs, learned how to operate the IBM 7090 computer that was used to make flight calculations in replace of the “human computers.”

Though all three women were faced with challenges, they were persistent in their efforts of sending a man into space. The team was successful in launching John Glenn into space to orbit around the Earth three times in 1961.

Students can pick up free tickets in the Student Activities office.

Game Design Guild gives designers unique experience

By LUKE CREASY
FOR THE PARTHENON

The future of video game design lies within the heads and hands of the rising generation, and a new club at Marshall University is creating a new outlet to help students learn.

The Marshall University Game Design Guild has made a way for university students to gain professional experience in the field while still receiving an education. Patrick McBrayer, guild president, said the intention is to “provide an atmosphere that is casual, but simulate the professional environment to allow people to create quality games before they get out into the professional field to give them an edge-up on attacking those careers that are very competitive.”

Moving outside of the traditional classroom allows students to expand on their knowledge even more.

“Part of game design that can be tricky to get in class is that it’s a lot of teamwork,” game design professor Matt Mundell said. “So if we can bring people together who aren’t in the

game program, we can meet all the different skills that you really need to make the full projects students might want to make.”

“When you’re in a club room and you’re interacting with people, you don’t feel confined to a chair and you can get up and move around and release your ideas,” McBrayer said.

With 115 students majoring in computer information and technology at Marshall, 48 of those have an emphasis in game design. Mundell has seen the program come a long way since being a Marshall University student himself.

“It was just brand new when I was a student and now I get to teach and help to make it bigger. It’s been growing a lot and so we’re really excited,” Mundell said.

There are currently no regularly scheduled meeting times for the Game Design Guild, though it has already grabbed the interest of several students on campus.

Luke Creasy can be contacted at creasy4@marshall.edu.

West Virginia distributing 8,000 overdose antidote kits

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia health officials are responding to opioid overdoses by distributing more than 8,000 kits with an antidote — Naloxone — that can get people breathing again if administered in time.

Money for the kits comes from a \$1 million federal grant to West Virginia, which has had the nation’s highest rate of overdose deaths.

“Naloxone is a lifesaving antidote that, if administered in a timely manner, can effectively reverse respiratory depression caused by opioid and opiate overdose and revive victims,” said Dr. Rahul Gupta, commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health. “This collaboration represents an essential step toward turning around West Virginia’s staggering overdose statistics.”

Federal data show West Virginia had 725 overdose deaths in 2015, the highest rate of any state at 41.5 per 100,000 people. Last year’s numbers are expected to show little improvement.

“We have seen a significant and steady increase in all drug overdose deaths in West Virginia over the last several years. Unfortunately, based upon the trend we are seeing, the number of overdose deaths has not yet peaked,” Gupta said. “We expect our preliminary data for 2016 to further increase as more toxicology results are recorded.”

Meanwhile local emergency medical services agencies administered 4,186 doses of Naloxone last year, up from 3,351 the year before and 2,165 two years ago. Gupta said that data doesn’t include uses by hospital emergency departments, urgent care centers, first responders and family members.

The project is funded with a \$1 million federal grant managed by the state Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities and administered by Gupta’s bureau. West Virginia University’s Injury Control Research Center will implement

and evaluate the project.

More than 4,000 of the two-dose kits will go out in the next few weeks to high priority areas, including needle-exchange programs and police and fire departments in the cities of Huntington, Charleston, Wheeling and Morgantown and other urban and rural areas.

Emergency medical personnel currently carry the antidote, but this project should make it more widely available to other first responders and to people at high risk, their family members, friends and caregivers, said Herb Linn, the center’s deputy director.

“We’re looking at getting more naloxone out into a variety of individuals’ hands, who are in a position to be a witness to an overdose or get called and respond more immediately,” Linn said.

There may have been some recent progress in limiting fatalities from prescription opioids, but there’s been an upsurge in overdose deaths involving heroin and fentanyl, he said. “The problem remains huge in West Virginia, which likely continues to have the highest rate of overdose deaths. The naloxone distribution can only help to turn that epidemic around.”

West Virginia several years ago had one of the highest opioid drug prescription rates in the nation, which correlated with higher overdose deaths, Gupta said. The opioid epidemic is evolving, with prescription rates declining but the cheaper alternative of heroin available on the streets, sometimes contaminated with far more potent fentanyl and even the elephant tranquilizer carfentanyl, he said.

“We’re looking at addiction as a chronic relapsing disease rather than a stigma,” he said. The state response includes making more treatment, counseling and workforce training available, as well as screening pregnant women, whose cases and babies are treated as a priority, he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELSIE TYSON

Marshall Clay Club to host Valentine's Day ceramics sale

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Clay Club will have its annual Valentine-themed sale Feb. 9 and 10 at the Visual Arts Center

The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

“I think what is so great about the sale is that it is the first chance that a lot of students get to try to sell and show their work to the public,” said Caitlin Thomas, Clay Club member and ceramics major. “You get to see how people interact with your pieces. Faculty and peers always show a lot of support during the sale, too, so that is very encouraging.”

An assortment of items will

be included in the sale, from mugs to vases, to even hand-made jewelry and sculptural items, with prices ranging anywhere from \$5 to \$50.

Sixty percent of each item sold goes directly to the student-artist and the remaining 40 percent goes directly to the club

“Club members always look forward to the sales,” Clay Club President Kelsie Tyson said. “Not only does this give artists experience selling their work, but also raises funds for the club to bring in visiting artists and travel to galleries, art shows and National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.”

TRACK cont. from 3

the school record in the mile. Andrea Porter won her race in the 3000 meter run. The 4x400 meter team ran probably the second fastest time in school history. This was a great meet all around for us and we’re really excited.”

The Marshall University track and field team hosts the Chipotle Marshall Invitational next Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11 at the Jeff Small Track at the Chris Cline Indoor Complex. Follow the team on Twitter preparing for the home meet on Twitter @HerdTFXC, and for more all season long.

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Mu Sigma Upsilon sisters strive to achieve excellence

By **CHRISTIAN DAVIS**
THE PARTHENON

Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority Incorporated strives to connect women from culturally diverse backgrounds into a sisterhood. The sorority not only spreads awareness about different cultures, but also acts as a support system for the diverse women involved. Mu Sigma Upsilon Inc. was founded on Nov. 21, 1981 at Rutgers University New Brunswick as the first multicultural sorority in the nation. According to its website, Mu Sigma Upsilon has over fifty chapter locations and a diverse group of more than 1,000 women from more than 80 cultural backgrounds. T'Asia Rankin, a junior at Marshall University studying athletic training, said being the only multicultural sorority on campus can be a lot sometimes, especially being the only representative at the time. "You have your traditional white sororities and fraternities on campus and you also have your traditional black sororities and fraternities, but not a lot of people are used to seeing us," Rankin said. "There are so many different spectrums of where sororities fall and being in a place like West Virginia, it is not that diverse of a place, so people are not exposed to seeing so much diversity in one place, but we're working on hopefully bringing that to Marshall." There are three goals the sisters strives to uphold through college to maintain their highest excellence. "Our goals in the organization

consist of academic excellence, unity amongst all women and being active members of the university and community," Rankin said. "The most important of these is our schooling, being that we are in school it should be our main priority, but that does not shy away from the necessity of the other goals in any way." Mu Sigma Upsilon serves as a home away from home for the sisters involved, creating a safe place for them to be themselves and to understand each other's different experiences and ways of life. Rankin said she likes to plan events that educate and celebrate different aspects of women that make them unique and beautiful. "Previously, an event that is really popular that I try to keep doing as a sister is an event called 'Behind the Veil,' which is a hijab event where we partner up with the Muslim Student Association," Rankin said. "We place hijab's out on a table and welcome students to come over and answer any questions they wish to know about them, because a lot of people aren't very exposed as to why women wear a hijab. It is a great opportunity for students to meet our Muslim students to get their perspective." First a support system and now an organization, the focus of unity and togetherness from places all over is what Rankin said she loves most about being in the sorority. "I love our founding mothers so much and it is so cool to hear them speak and learn about how the organization was started and

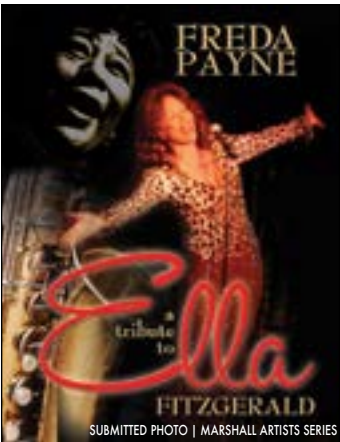
what it was like to have diverse women come together back in their time," Rankin said. "It is such a difference from then to now, but with everything going on currently with politics and so on it is really strengthening and empowering to hear them speak encouragement into us." Rankin said she has found sisterhood to become important to her and that the diversity is definitely something she celebrates most about Mu Sigma Upsilon. The presence on Marshall's campus is small right now but not forgotten, and she is always looking for new sisters wanting to join. "Where we're so small we like to reach out to everybody," Rankin said. "Sometimes I will call other sisters from other schools to see what they're doing to peak interest from students to get ideas of what I can do to push the Marshall chapter along. I can look at a photo from an event and name almost every woman there because we are just that small, but again the number is not so much as important as the bond you share when you get involved with Mu Sigma Upsilon." Rankin said she is always doing smaller events such as selling cake pops in the Memorial Student Center and is always willing to share more information about the sorority for those interested. **Christian Davis can be contacted at davis823@marshall.edu.**

Freda Payne to pay tribute to Ella Fitzgerald at Marshall University

By **ALEXIA LILLY**
THE PARTHENON

Vocalist Freda Payne is set to perform for the Huntington community at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Payne will pay tribute to the legend Ella Fitzgerald as part of Fitzgerald's centennial anniversary. The year 2017 would have been Ella Fitzgerald's 100th birthday. The performance serves as remembrance for Ella Fitzgerald's talents and achievements. The performance is part of the "Tribute to Ella" tour by Payne to celebrate Fitzgerald, who Payne has been a fan of all her life. The performance will include Fitzgerald's memorable songs, such as "It Don't Mean a Thing" and "Sweet Georgia Brown." The performance will take the audience through Fitzgerald's career from her Apollo Theater debut to her successful career that followed. Payne will

also share personal stories and some of her best known hits, such as "Band of Gold," and "Bring the Boys Home" during the performance. Freda Payne is a vocalist and actress. Payne got her start as a vocalist by singing in radio commercials and winning talent competitions in Detroit as a young woman. Payne then got the attention of Duke Ellington, who invited Payne to sing with his orchestra. After she received a recording contract, she got her household name from her number one hit song, "Band of Gold." She has performed on Broadway in shows including "Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies" and "Blues in the Night." She has gotten back to her jazz origins with her new album "Come Back to Me," which includes arrangements from big bands.



Freda Payne as Ella Fitzgerald

To see Payne perform her hits and honor Ella Fitzgerald, tickets are available now at the Marshall Artists Series box office located at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on Marshall University's campus. Ticket prices for the performance range from \$73.55 to \$43.59. The hours of the Marshall Artists Series box office are Monday through Friday noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are also available online. **Alexia Lilly can be contacted at lilly207@marshall.edu.**

The Book Nook: "Catcher In The Rye"

By **DALTON MONK**
FOR THE PARTHENON

Renowned literary books such as "The Old Man and the Sea" or "Frankenstein" are usually well known by people who haven't even read the book. However, if you

haven't read "The Catcher in the Rye," you probably have no idea what it's about. You might have even asked someone for a short synopsis of it, but they probably replied with something like, "Well, you just have to read it."

J.D. Salinger, arguably the 20th Century's most famous and arcane author, penned a story that everyone feels is about themselves. **Read the full review online at marshallparthenon.com**

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